

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 377
By Fitzhugh

A RESOLUTION to recognize Don Paris for his fifty years of service in radio broadcasting.

WHEREAS, radio stations have been important community cultural institutions since the radio industry began to gain a foothold in the early years of the 20th century; the new medium brought local, national, and world events to listeners in a timely fashion and opened doors to music, sports, weather, and other features; and

WHEREAS, radio station personality Don Paris is one such estimable person who has served with dedication and probity for fifty years, providing radio listeners with outstanding service, vital information, and enjoyable entertainment; and

WHEREAS, in 1955, when the radio industry was barely three decades old, Don Paris began working after school for WTRB AM 1570 in Ripley, covering football, basketball, and baseball games; and

WHEREAS, three years later, Mr. Paris received his First Class Radio Engineer's license and has continued his service in radio and entertainment ever since; and

WHEREAS, while for several years he could be found performing on the television comedy show "Hee Haw," today, he can be heard weekdays on WTRB AM 1570 from six a.m. to eight a.m. on the "Mornings with Don Paris" show; and

WHEREAS, throughout his exemplary tenure as a radio and entertainment professional, Mr. Paris has also distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, his love of children has fueled his decade-long efforts in raising funds to support St. Jude Children's Hospital, and Mr. Paris has also helped to foster knowledge and support of the Special Olympics for more than twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, he is an extremely generous person who often reaches out with compassion and selflessness, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, his professionalism and community service earned him recognition from the Fraternal Order of Police organization, who named Mr. Paris "Man of the Year" in 1978; and

WHEREAS, his remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; he uses such ability to teach the Men's Comeback class, a great service he has performed for the past twenty-four years; and

WHEREAS, as an active member of the greater Ripley area with an unfaltering interest in bettering his community, Mr. Paris has participated extensively in area civic organizations, including his membership and service on numerous Boards of Directors such as the Rolling Hills Country Club and the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, he has also served laudably as the past President of the Ripley United Methodist Men and the Ripley Rotary Club, in addition to his current service as Chairman of the Lauderdale County Election Commission; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Paris has demonstrated a remarkable ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his industry peers and fellow community members alike, as reflected by his being selected Grand Marshall of his community's 2004 Christmas Parade; and

WHEREAS, his outstanding professional and civic accomplishments aside, Mr. Paris is also deeply devoted to his family, and he has always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, he enjoys the warm companionship of his wife of forty-seven years, the former Anne Hood, is the proud father of Debbie Paris Brewster and the late Don Paris, Jr., and is an adoring grandfather to his grandson, Jason, and granddaughter, Jennifer; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Paris exemplifies the spirit of allegiance to community that is characteristic of a true Tennessean; his dedication to his heritage and to the good people of Tennessee is unparalleled; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Don Paris, a man of uncommon integrity and
relentless vision, for his fifty years in radio broadcasting, thank him for his honorable and astute
service, and wish him much success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be prepared for
presentation with this final resolving clause omitted from such copy.